

St. Monica's Parish

North Parramatta

"Our mission is to build up an active parish community with the Eucharist as the centre, foster deeper prayer and spirituality and reach out as a witnessing community"



TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — YEAR A 11TH OCTOBER 2026

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

FIRST READING

Is 25 : 6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain. *The word of the Lord.*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22

R: *I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.*

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

SECOND READING

Phil 4 : 12-14, 19-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen. *The word of the Lord.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22 : 1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Matthew



Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He dispatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out onto the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

St. Monica's Catholic Parish
Cnr Church Street and North Rocks Road, North Parramatta

Sunday Masses:	English: Saturday Vigil - 5pm; Sunday - 9am, 6pm Cantonese: Sunday 11.30am		
Weekday Masses:	English: Tuesday-Friday - 9.15am		
Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:	Every Friday following 9.15am Mass until 10.45am Every 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am		
Reconciliation:	Friday 10-10.30am, Saturday 4-4.30pm, 3rd Sunday of the month 10:15-11am, or on request		
Marriages:	Please contact the Parish Priest at least 12 months prior		
Baptisms:	Please contact the Parish Office for appointment with the Parish Priest. Phone: 9630-1951		
Anointing of the Sick/Eucharist at home	Please contact the Parish Office or Fr Ephraim Lam Phone: 9630-1951		
Parish priest/Chinese Chaplain:	Fr. Ephraim Lam	Phone: 9630 -1951	Email: shingmanlam@gmail.com
Postal Address:	8 Daking Street, North Parramatta, 2151 Website: https://stmonicanp.org.au		
Office hours:	Tuesday-Friday Sunday	8.30am-2.30pm 9am-11am	Phone: 9630-1951 Email: stmonicanp@bigpond.com

St. Monica's School

School Principal: Fiona Bylsma

Phone: 8832 4100

Email: stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au

COMMENTARY

Wedding Garments at Baptisms!

The servants of the king went out and gathered in 'all whom they found, good and evil alike'. They respond, drawn by the attractive prospect of sharing in the life of the Lord of the Feast, and they are welcomed, whether good or evil.

What about the king's (God's) question to the wedding guest? 'My friend, how come you are here without a wedding garment?' The guest might have replied: 'Because of dire poverty', or 'Lack of time', but the story goes on, 'But the guest was silent'. The guest was tongue-tied because he was caught out having decided not to enter into the spirit of the occasion.

That is why, at every baptism, we look for a signal of commitment to respond to the spirit of the occasion, by the wearing of a white garment. This anticipates the later receiving of Holy Communion which is a foretaste of the Feast of Heaven.

We could pause for a moment at this Mass to enter into the Spirit of the occasion wearing the garment of our baptismal commitment.

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Eucharistic Congress 2028 Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed. By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others. Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ. Amen



17th – 18th October 2026 will be **World Mission Sunday**. We shall have a special collection at the Masses in supporting the Catholic Mission Australia. Details are on the envelopes at the main door of the church.

YOUTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Youth Sleepout

The donation link to support the youth who slept out this weekend in our church hall is still open so if you would like to make a donation, you can do so via the QR code. Thank you for your generous donation.

St Monica's Got Talent

Youth Group is hosting another round of St Monica's Got Talent on **Saturday 21 November 2026**, and expressions of interest are open now. If you can sing, dance, beatbox, juggle, do martial arts — or have any talent you'd love to share — please contact Raphael on 0420 947 121. It's a wonderful chance to use the talents God has given you to give back, with all proceeds going towards the repair and maintenance of our beloved church.



PARISH ACTIVITES



St Monica's Parish Rosary Group

Every Wednesday from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the Parish Centre. Enquiries: Lynette Iwachiw 0423 696 961



Christian Meditation

Every Thursday, at the Parish Centre.

6pm-6:25pm Gentle Exercises,

6:30pm-7:30pm Christian Meditation.

Participation via zoom is available. Enquiries: Patricia Brown, email: pabrown02@bigpond.com



Catholic Women's League St Monica's Branch

Every third Monday of the month at 10.30 am in the Parish Centre. Enquiries : Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361



St Monica's Piety Stall (open alternate weeks)

Stall is open on Saturday 4.40 - 6.15 pm

Sunday 8.40 - 10.15 am

Contact : Julie Skulander on 0411 988 361



St Monica's Art Group

Every Saturday 6pm-8pm at the Parish Centre.

New workshops are available each week.

Please contact Vera (WhatsApp 0402936947) for details.



Bible Supper via ZOOM.

Every FIRST Thursday of the month, 8pm-9pm,

Fr. Ephraim will introduce every book from the Bible. All are welcome. To get the Zoom Link please scan the QR code on the left or send an email to Fr Ephraim.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

Please come to their monthly meeting on the last Wednesday of the month, 6.30pm, at the Parish Centre, or contact Jacob Payra 0431 881 697



Sacramental Program for Baptized Children 2026

Please send an email to our coordinator for details:

stmonicasacraments@gmail.com

Deadline for enrolment of Reconciliation: 12th Oct 2026



Voices of St Monica's Choir Needs You Children & Youth welcome!

Rehearsal: Every Sunday during school term, 10 - 11:25am

Enquiries and Registration: Winnie Cheung, 0405 608 691

or email: winnieklau@yahoo.com.au

SOAP 11 October 2026

Scripture – Matthew 22:1-14

Observation:

In today's gospel, Jesus draws parallels between the kingdom of Heaven and a king preparing a wedding banquet for his son with the same underlying message across both - *'For many are invited but not all are chosen.'* God extends his love, mercy and kindness to everyone, analogous to the king's welcoming invitation to his guests. However, we witness a man without a wedding garment enter the feast, only to be thrown out and *'where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'* This phrase appears six times in Matthew's gospel – it is a common metaphor consistently utilised to show the ultimate sorrow, anguish and regret one can experience from being separated from God and his kingdom. Although it may sound harsh, Jesus uses this parable to remind us that appearance and merely acting the part is not enough.

Application:

As Catholics, we have been invited to participate in the joys of Mass every Sunday, and most importantly, the opportunity to live out our faith in accordance with God's will – if we choose to do so. It can be easy to fall within the depths of complacency where we struggle to pray, meditate and act intentionally and mindfully – and accept this as our new reality. This is why it is crucial to catch ourselves and reflect on our actions consistently; when you notice your mind wondering elsewhere and you realise you actually have no idea what the homily was about. Being distracted is a normal (and common) experience – however, it's a matter of bringing your attention and focus consistently back to Christ, even if it takes a long time. We may be guests now, but without true faith, humility and repentance we too may be turned away by God.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, grant me the strength and love that you instilled in your son Jesus so that I may too do my best to exemplify these qualities and values in my daily life. Help me to not lose sight of your teachings and may this parable serve as a reminder for me to accept your grace, and seek forgiveness and repentance where I have strayed away from you. Amen.

17 th / 18 th October ROSTERS			
	5pm Vigil	9am	6pm
Readers	J. Kandalajt S. Meleca	A. Espiritu S. Jacob	E. Saleh N. Sindayen
Extraordinary Ministers	C. North M. Samson	J. Payra C. Cheung	TBA
Acolytes	P. Senjak	I. Goldthorpe	J. Hilton
Cleaning	Group 2 – Vera's Cleaning Crew (16 th October)		
Children's Liturgy	Julie / Jesuina		
Morning Tea	Falamich & De Araujo		
Counting	Group 5		